

selected from the group consisting of polysulfated glucosoglycans, glycosaminoglycans, mucopolysaccharides and mixtures thereof, blended with a nonionic polymer selected from the group consisting of [carboxymethylcellulose sodium,] hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose and mixtures thereof, wherein the molar ratio of the negatively charged polymers to the nonionic polymers is 1:0.5 to 2.0, and wherein the composition is storage stable.--

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended in the expectation that the amendment will place this application in condition for allowance. Basis for the amendment may be found within the specification on page 7, lines 1-26. The amendment does not introduce new matter within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 132. Accordingly, entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

1. Rejection of Claims 1, 3-5, and 7-14

under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action states that claims 1, 3-5, and 7-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Sander et al.

As the basis of this rejection, the Office Action states:

Applicant argues that his inventive subject matter does not require any biocompatible particles formed from methacrylates dispersed within its matrix. While that may be true the claims as presently written do not exclude such particles. The language "consisting essentially of" is not limiting to a composition claim wherein the language "comprising" is present. Applicant also argues that hyaluronic acid slats are not part of the matrix. This is not true since claim 37 recites that